

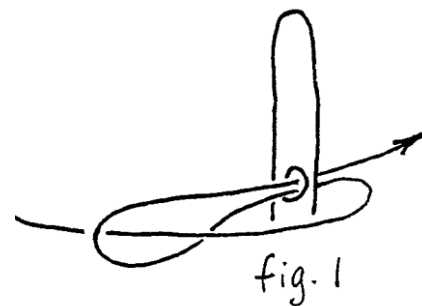
REPLACING A STRING

The strings are steel music wire, and are all the same gauge — "ten-thousandths" (.010 of an inch). Any music store will carry this gauge wire, as a guitar or banjo string, if you happen to break one. Except for breakage, though, they should last indefinitely if they're kept free of rust and oil (see "care" section).

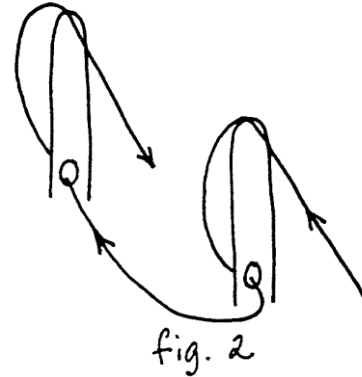
Let's say, however, that your Great Aunt Thelma does accidentally sit on your psaltery, or, more likely, that you got a bit carried away tuning that high A#. FEAR NOT — replacing a broken string is relatively easy and requires only a pair of wire cutters, your tuning wrench and a little patience. Ready?

[**Note:** One great enemy of psaltery strings is oil from your hands. As you perform the following steps, please make certain your hands are relatively free from oils, even if it means washing them more than once - PR]

1. Set yourself up on a smooth-surfaced table, covered with a cloth to protect the table and the psaltery. Place the psaltery on the table pointing to your left so you can hold it steady with your left arm while you work.
2. Notice that the strings are in sets of two — one wire is looped around the pins to make two strings. Remove the broken wire from both hitch pins and both tuning pins in the set by backing the wire through the holes.
3. Lower the tuning pins by turning them clockwise with your wrench until the holes are just above the top of the instrument, parallel to the strings.
4. Cut a piece of wire twice the length of the longest string to be replaced, plus about 10".
5. Determine which tuning pin corresponds to the shortest string to be replaced. Thread one end of the wire through the hole in this pin, from right to left. Pull about 5" of wire through the hole.
6. Bring the other end of the wire around the tuning pin on the side nearest you, overlapping the short end. Pick the short end up and around the long end and feed it back through the hole from the left (fig. 1). Pull it tight. Turn the pin a half turn counter-clockwise to help "seat" the knot.



7. Now thread the long end through the two hitch pins, using figure 2 and the other strings as a guide. Pass the wire over the top of the first pin (the shortest string), down and through the hole from left to right, around on the inside and up to the next pin. Thread it through this second pin from right to left and then over the top. Keep the wire slack — you will tighten it later.
8. Bring the end down to its tuning pin, 5 on the side nearest you, and feed it through the hole from the right. Pull about 5" of wire through the hole.
9. Pass the end under the string, around and back through the hole from the left (fig. 1 again). Pull it tight.
10. Now tighten everything up with your wrench on the tuning pins. Turn counter-clockwise, keeping the windings as close to the instrument as possible (so they don't get in the way of the tuning wrench). Use your other hand to keep the wire in the notches on top of the hitch pins. Try to distribute the wire evenly between the two strings, and turn until they are taut.
11. THERE! The last step is to clip off the wire "tails" on the tuning pins, using your wire cutters. Cut them off as close to the pins as possible.



Now, of course, you have to tune the new strings. For the first tuning, [wash your hands to remove oils, then] press down several times on the strings with your finger to stretch them in, bring them up to pitch (see the "tuning" section), and then try stretching and tuning again to be sure they're holding the notes accurately. These strings will probably need tuning again soon; a "stretching in" period is normal, and is the reason why we tune our new psalteries twice, several days apart. We want your first experience with your psaltery to be playing it, not tuning it!

We wish you the best of luck and many hours of enjoyment from your psaltery. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!

David, Gene and Jessica